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*Israel-Egypt: Israel's desire to forestall a new propaganda blackeye is evident in its quick denial of Egyptian allegations that Israeli planes hit another civilian target.

Israeli officials insist [redacted] that the attack yesterday, in which Cairo alleges 30 schoolchildren and other civilians were killed, was against a strictly military target. [redacted]

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Whatever the truth of the matter, Cairo and Moscow are sure to exploit the incident to its maximum possible propaganda advantage. [redacted]

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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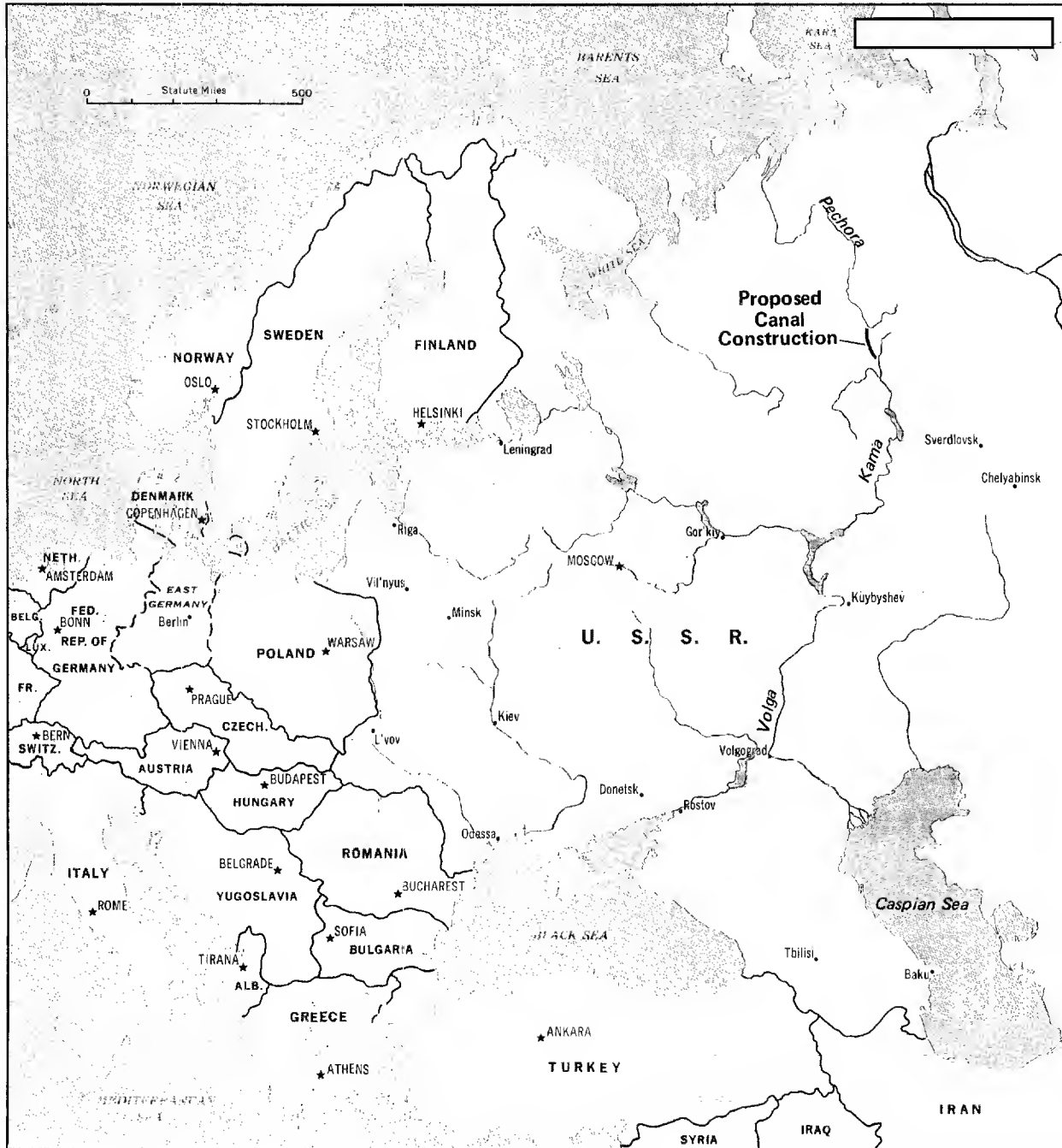
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Soviets Propose Peaceful Use of Nuclear Explosives



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USSR: Soviet scientists have proposed the use of nuclear explosives to construct a canal designed to stem the decrease in the water level of the Caspian Sea.

Details of the plan were presented in Moscow last February at joint US-Soviet technical talks concerning peaceful uses of nuclear explosions. The proposed canal would divert the waters of the north-flowing Pechora River into the Kama River, the Volga River, and the Caspian Sea.

Some 40 miles of the proposed 70-mile canal would be excavated, using 250 separate nuclear charges. The nuclear yield of the devices would range from 40 to 500 kilotons each and would total 36 megatons. The use of nuclear devices for this project was mentioned in talks in Vienna last year.

Soviet scientists at the February meeting seemed intent on learning the views of US scientists concerning the level of atmospheric radioactivity from such detonations that would be injurious to health. The Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 does not permit the presence of radioactive debris beyond the boundaries of the nation in which the nuclear detonation occurs. An amendment or interpretation of the treaty, therefore, would probably have to be negotiated before the Soviets could legally attempt the canal project. (Map)

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Italy: Premier Mariano Rumor is expected to receive a parliamentary vote of confidence soon on his new government and legislative program.

His legislative proposals consist primarily of bills on which his previous governments have done considerable work. They call for revision of the penal code, completion of the divorce law, and provision for mutual funds. Reforms of the university and secondary school systems, the radio-television monopoly, and the tax system are also proposed. Measures to control drug traffic are included for the first time.

Only minimal parliamentary action is likely on the program prior to the country's first regional elections to be held nationwide. The new government has scheduled them to coincide with local elections on 7 June.

In foreign affairs Rumor said the government would continue previous policies. He referred particularly to the pursuit of detente in Europe, enlargement of the European Communities, adherence to NATO, advocacy of a conference on European security, and efforts to establish relations with Communist China.

The regional elections will represent a major step toward the decentralization of Italy into the 20 regional administrations required by the 1948 constitution. The five regions already functioning are in Sicily, Sardinia, and the ethnic minority areas in the north, where the Italian Communist party is relatively weak. At least two of the 15 new regional governments, those in Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, will probably be dominated by the Communists.



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Peru: President Velasco's speech to a meeting of Latin American industrialists will have a pernicious impact on foreign investor confidence.

At the opening of the Sixth Latin American Congress of Industrialists on 6 April, the Peruvian President told delegates from 13 nations that the state must play a greater role in bringing about reform and curbing foreign economic influence. He envisioned a system in which cooperatives, companies with workers represented in management, and state enterprises would function alongside private corporations.

Velasco declared that one method of controlling foreign corporate investments would be to set a fixed term for reversion of ownership to the state after the investment and an "acceptable amount" of profit had been recovered. Thus, all businesses with foreign capital would progressively become national businesses "with decisive state participation."

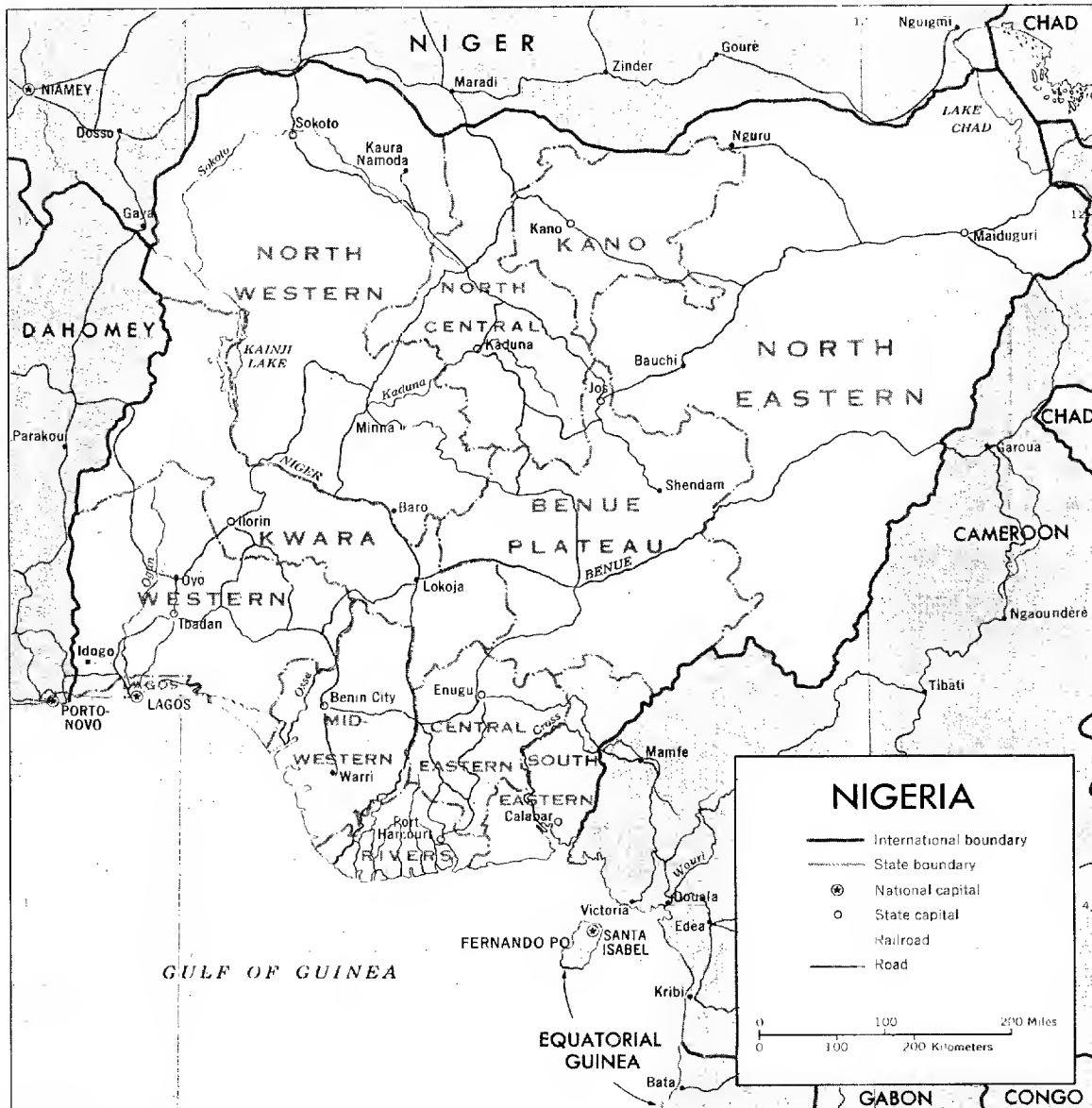
These statements, coupled with Velasco's assertion that the development of natural resources and basic industries should be reserved for the state, are likely to be interpreted by foreign investors as a warning of action to come. US mining companies, in particular, will carefully evaluate the president's latest statements before making decisions on large investments now in the planning stage.

The military government is moving slowly with its reform program right now, but the concepts expressed by Velasco may be reflected in future reform laws.

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Nigeria: The reintegration of the Ibos is proceeding, but it is proving to be a slow and difficult process.

In the three months since the civil war ended, the federal government has done much to dispel the fears of the former secessionists. The vast majority of the dynamic Ibos, however, are still crowded into their homeland, which corresponds roughly to the Central-Eastern State, one of three states carved out of the former Ibo-controlled Eastern Region.

Before the secession in 1967, large numbers of Ibos lived in other parts of the federation, where many held important jobs in government and private business. Some Ibos have returned to Lagos, Western, and Mid-Western states, but very few have gone back to the north, where over a million lived before the secession.

The reintegration problem has come into particularly sharp focus in the other two eastern states, both of which formerly had large Ibo elements. These states are now controlled by small tribes that are vehemently anti-Ibo and determined that the Ibos will never again dominate them. Ibos reportedly were attacked when they attempted to return to Port Harcourt, an important industrial town that was predominantly Ibo before the war.

The government has been reinstating Ibos into their former jobs, and some 3,000 former policemen have reportedly been re-employed and assigned as far away as Lagos. The reinstatement of civilian employees has been slowed recently, however, as a result of an accumulation of paperwork and an emphasis on "security clearances" rather than simple proof of prewar employment. Continued insistence on security clearances would prove a major bottleneck, as all competent Ibo civil servants who were in their homeland during the war worked for the secessionist government.

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Despite these problems, no indications of unrest or even general dissatisfaction are yet developing among the Ibos. Most of them are still sick of war, resigned to reintegration, and determined to make the best of it. (Map)

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NOTES

Communist China - North Korea: Chou En-lai's three-day visit ended on 7 April with both parties stressing common interests and ignoring differences. Speeches by Chou and Premier Kim Il-song were replete with references to the growing threat of Japanese aggression, which they agreed was backed by the US. They also stressed the need for "solidarity" to counter Japan's expanding role in Asia. Both officials avoided the sensitive issue of the Sino-Soviet dispute and seemed annoyed at what they view as growing cooperation between Moscow and Tokyo. It is unlikely, however, that Pyongyang, which depends heavily on Soviet aid, will allow its rapprochement with Peking to jeopardize seriously its ties with Moscow.

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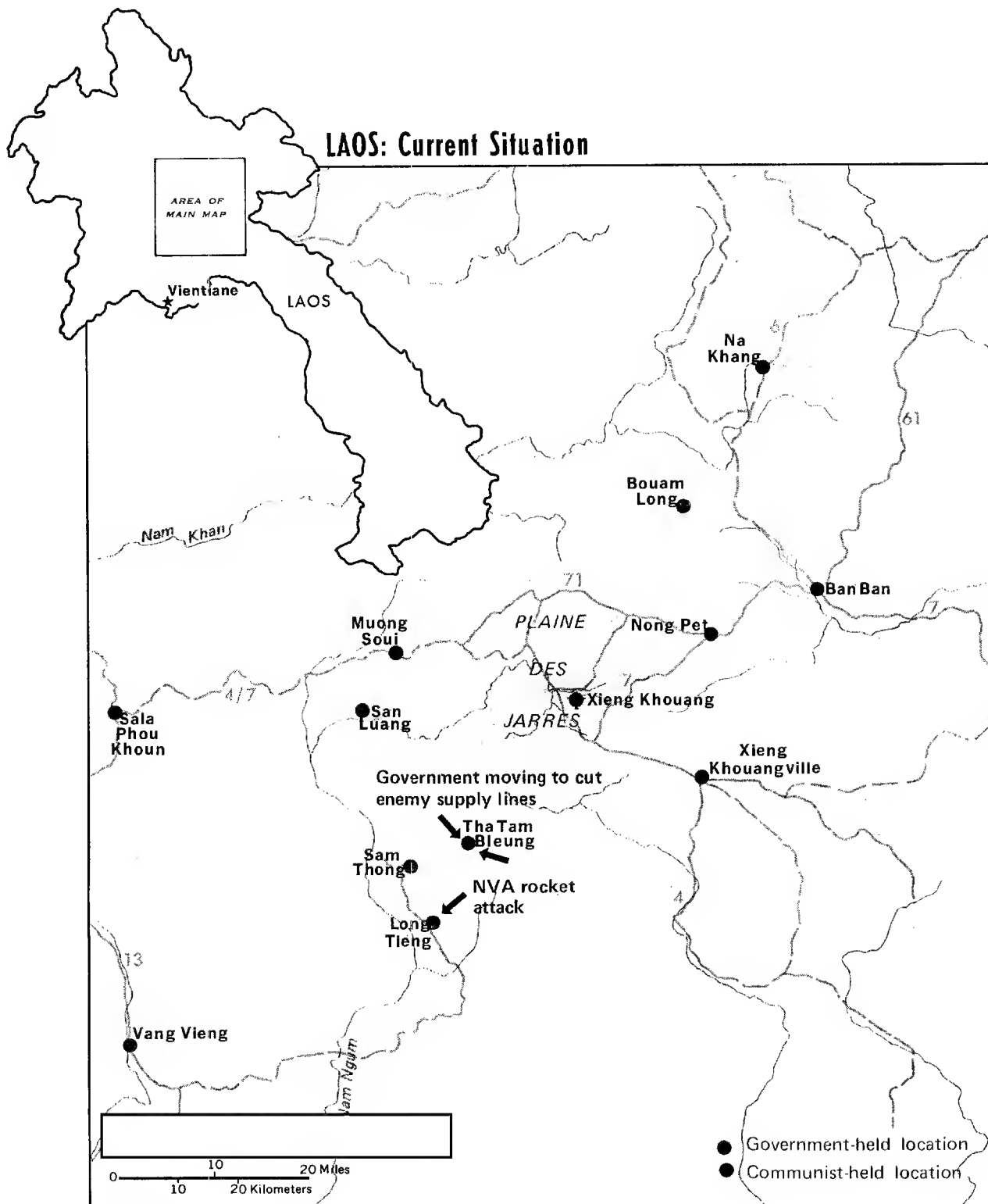
Guatemala: A new cycle of recriminatory terrorism may be starting as a result of the West German ambassador's murder. A mutilated corpse was found yesterday after an anonymous caller described it as "the first installment" of retaliation for von Spreiti's death. Right-wing extremists, impatient with the government's lack of success against Communist terrorists, have used terror tactics against the Communists and their alleged sympathizers in the past. Security forces, continuing their search for von Spreiti's killers, reportedly have rounded up large numbers of suspects for interrogation, and the city remains tense.

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Laos: The military situation remains generally unchanged. Government forces are, however, making some headway in their efforts to recapture critical terrain between the Plaine des Jarres and the Long Tieng - Sam Thong complex. Over the past two days Vang Pao's guerrillas and Lao regulars have pushed into the area surrounding Tha Tam Bleung, a key government base that was overrun by the enemy in mid-March. Communist control of the base has greatly facilitated the enemy's supply and combat operations against Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. Although Long Tieng came under 122-mm. rocket fire on 7 April, there has been no significant change in the over-all tactical situation in that sector.

[REDACTED] (Map) [REDACTED]

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